

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 8, 2004  
MINUTES**

The Williamsburg City Council held its regular monthly meeting on January 8, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs, and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Hudson, Yost, Weiler, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

*Mr. Houghland Moved Approval of the City Council Minutes of December 8 and 11, 2003, and Special Meetings of December 15 and 19, 2003. Mr. Houghland commented that he would recuse himself from voting on the December 19, 2003 Minutes because he was absent at that meeting. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.*

*Recorded Vote on the Motion:*

*Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland (recused from December 19, 2003), Tabb*

*No: None*

**SPECIAL PRIVILEGE**

**At-Risk Youth Mentor Archie Jefferson—Family News Clip**

Mr. Tuttle introduced the Channel 13 news video highlighting employee Archie Jefferson and wife Julie's soon to be delivered fraternal quadruplets. The three boys and one girl are due to be delivered sometime in January or February. Channel 13-television station will follow the Jefferson family through the course of the pregnancy.

Linda Clark, Deputy Director of Human Services, reported that Julie was admitted to the hospital and is just weeks from delivery.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Transaction to Exchange City Owned Property on Richmond Road (Old Bonanza Site) for Carolynn Court Property**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated January 5, 2004, which included a copy of the public hearing notice. Mr. Tuttle said the City Attorney has advised Council that the transaction to exchange the old "Bonanza" restaurant site, owned by the city, for the Carolynn Court motel property requires a public hearing before it can be closed. For an equivalent exchange, DewDropInn (the owner of Carolyn Court) will pay the city an additional \$200,000. Mr. Tuttle recommended that Council authorize proceeding with the transaction, following the public hearing.

The Mayor opened the public hearing.  
No one wished to speak. The hearing was closed.

*Mr. Houghland Moved That City Council Authorize the City Attorney to Proceed with the Closing on the Transaction to Exchange City Owned Property on Richmond Road (Old Bonanza Site) for Carolynn Court Property, and that the City Manager Be Authorized to Execute and Deliver the Appropriate Deed and to Complete Other Actions As Necessary to Complete the Closings. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.*

*Recorded Vote on the Motion:*

*Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland, Tabb*

*No: None*

## **REPORTS**

### **Monthly Financial Statement**

*The Monthly Financial Report was received and ordered filed.*

Mr. Tuttle noted the costs for hurricane debris removal was coming down (Page 4, Landscaping). The city has received \$838,000 from FEMA and the State of Virginia, which represented 70% reimbursement.

### **Monthly Departmental Operating Reports**

*The Monthly Departmental Operating Reports were received and ordered filed.*

Mr. Tuttle noted that the end of the calendar year reports contain useful information.

### **Planning Reports**

City Council members received the 2003 Annual Reports for the Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, and meeting schedules for 2004.

Mr. Haulman thanked the many citizens that volunteer on boards and commissions for their work and for their time.

### **City Manager Reports**

#### **Goals and Initiatives for 2002-2004 Biennium—Mid Term Status Report**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated January 5, 2004, which included a copy of the updated Goals and Initiatives. The update provided a mid-term status report on the city's 57 specific priority initiatives. He reviewed the updated initiatives under eight major goals: Character of the City, Economic Vitality, Neighborhoods, Transportation, Public Safety, Human Services and Education, Culture and Recreation, and Environmental Services.

Council members and Mr. Tuttle discussed certain initiatives:

1. Traffic calming on Newport Avenue. No consensus from the neighborhood. City is still waiting for direction.

2. Jamestown Road/Route 199 Intersection. Work is moving forward, but staff felt there are still issues to be resolved regarding the entrance into the 7-Eleven Store. Mr. Haulman was very concerned about this entrance where traffic backs up to the intersection. This is a critical intersection and there have already been accidents there. Mr. Haulman was

concerned about VDOT's position regarding the 7-Eleven Store entrance and was interested to hear the city's options. Mr. Tuttle added that while VDOT is responsible for the intersection, the city's police and fire respond to accidents at the intersection. Mayor Zeidler said that VDOT understands the problem but does not want to spend the funds to correct it. Mr. Haulman would like to have this placed on the retreat agenda for discussion. Mr. Tuttle said the city and James City County agree on what should be done, have had many meetings regarding this, and have sent a letter to VDOT. The Mayor asked that the letter to VDOT be forwarded to our State Senator and Delegates.

Council members appreciated Mr. Tuttle's update. Mr. Scruggs congratulated staff and Council for their work to implement the city's goals.

### **Results of 2003 Citizens Survey**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated January 5, 2004, which included a copy of the "2003 Annual Citizen Survey Results."

Ms. Miller presented a powerpoint presentation reporting the ninth annual citizen survey results and comparative survey results from 1995-2003. Three hundred random surveys with sixteen questions were mailed last November and 152 were returned. The city's overall score was 4.1 (range 1-5), which was "very good." Ms. Miller addressed the scores for city departments, the value of the services provided by the city, and discussed the demographic information provided by citizens. The scores for safety, beauty, and livability, as well as employee service and courtesy were higher than last year. Ms. Miller noted citizen comments were included in the Executive Summary comments.

Ms. Miller thanked Kim Butler and Annette Gilbert for their work on the survey.

Council members were pleased to see the gratifying survey results, citizen perceptions, and that the city had little criticism.

Ms. Miller said the results and comments would be sent to department directors for follow up with citizens on their comments and to thank them for completing the survey. She noted the survey results are posted on the city's website, and the survey is on the site year round.

Mr. Haulman and Ms. Miller discussed the meaning of "weighted" scores, which reflected the overall scores on actual surveys returned and questions answered. Mr. Haulman suggested that the number of citizens who answered each question be added to the results and that citizen comments be discussed at the upcoming retreat.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mrs. Miller for her report.

### **Distribution of City of Williamsburg "Neighborhood Guide"**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated January 5, 2004. Council members received a copy of the "Neighborhood Guide." This item was provided for information only. The city recently mailed the guide to city residents and it was placed on the city's website. The reference tool was designed to assist citizens in accessing city programs and activities for the benefit of their neighborhoods.

Council was pleased with the useful guide. Mr. Haulman suggested that staff contact Mr. Sam Sadler at the college about the guide and that it be provided to students.

**Proposal for \$2.00 Additional Lodging Tax for Tourism Promotion**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated January 5, 2004. Mr. Tuttle explained that the Williamsburg Hotel and Motel Association, Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and Williamsburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau have requested action on a proposed \$2.00 per night per room lodging tax in the city, and in James City and York Counties. The money will be use for destination advertising. While the two counties require General Assembly enabling legislation to enact the tax, the city already has the authority to do so. Mr. Tuttle proposed that only upon action by both the James City County and York County to request the introduction and passage of enabling legislation by the General Assembly, City Council meet in a called special session to also endorse such legislation. This would need to be done prior to the deadline for the introduction of legislation. Senator Norment's letter of January 5, 2004, requested written confirmation of local governing body intentions on or before Thursday, January 15. York County and James City Council will consider the proposal at their meetings next week, and Council will meet to consider the proposal after those meetings.

The Mayor asked Council members to keep their calendars for Thursday, January 15 open.

Mr. Scruggs pointed out that alternate funding for marketing is an initiative listed under Economic Vitality in the city's Goals and Initiatives.

**Unfinished Business**

**Rezoning Proposal to Allow Student Oriented Housing on Richmond Road in Vicinity of the Southern Inn Site (Action deferred at November 13 City Council meeting).**

Reference for this item was Mayor Zeidler's memorandum to City Council dated January 5, 2004. The Mayor said that Council deferred action on this matter at their November meeting in order to find a way to facilitate conversation on this issue. The City Manager has met with Dr. John McLaughlin who could assist the city as a facilitator with various stakeholders. The owner of the Southern Inn property has been accommodating and is interested in the redevelopment of this area. He is willing to participate in discussions. She has recommended that Council hire Dr. McLaughlin and that the process is left flexible until Dr. McLaughlin reports back to Council and the next step in this process is defined. Council members concurred. The fee for his services has not yet been determined, but would be on a "time" basis.

Mr. Tuttle suggested leaving this matter "deferred" until after this process. Council members concurred.

*Mr. Houghland Moved That City Council Authorize the City Manager to Engage Dr. McLaughlin's Services, and Further, that City Council Extend the Deferral of this Matter from February Up to Three Additional Months to Give Ample Time for the Process. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Haulman.*

*Recorded Vote on the Motion:*

*Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland, Tabb*

*No: None*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Appointments to Local Emergency Planning Committee**

*Mr. Houghland moved the Appointments of **Robert A. Turner** and **W. Stephen Cummings, M.D.** to the Williamsburg Local Emergency Planning Committee, effective September 1, 2003, for terms to expire August 31, 2006; and*

*That the terms of office for all current members of the City of Williamsburg Local Emergency Planning Committee shall be September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2006, as requested by the LEPC. The names are as follows: Larry Richards, Danny McDaniel, Bill Tolbert, Roger L. Baldwin, James W. Sexton, Peter Walentisch, T.K. Weiler, Bert Geddy, James Murphy, Mike Yost, J. Leslie Hall, III, Deborah Middlebrook, Billy Scruggs, Michael Fox, and Donald West*

*The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Haulman.*

*Recorded Vote on the Motion:*

*Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland, Tabb*

*No: None*

## **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

Joint Informal Meeting of City Council and Planning Commission: Mr. Tuttle reminded Council of the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, 7:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Approved: February 12, 2004

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Clerk of Council

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Mayor